

transmitted and/or to be transmitted in the future. These descriptions can be submitted in real time (e.g., as describe about) over communication connections 120 like the Internet and/or can be provided from various interest groups as stored data files. For example, the owner of the segment announcer 110 would buy comments, rating, etc. from various movie critics and provide them to the segment announcement receivers as they view them movie. Certain religious or political groups 111 might also provide descriptions (comments, ratings, etc.) About the information as well. Payments could be made for the descriptions 250, either by the owner of the segment announcer or by the groups 111 seeking to have their descriptions 250 transmitted to the segment announcement receivers. The users 155 of the segment announcement receivers might also pay for the transmission of these descriptions 250.

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Concl.*

4 12-33
Please replace page 6, lines 17 through page 7, lines 17 with the following:

The segment announcement receivers receive the announcements 115. The segment announcement receivers are any signal processing device that processes the signal being transmitted over the communication connection 120. In one preferred embodiment, the communication connection is a television broadcast (e.g., off air or cable) and the segment announcement receiver is a television and/or video recorder. Other examples of a segment announcement receiver include: a radio 163, a deferred use device (like a tape delay (not shown) or video recorder (not shown)), a closed circuit television 162, and a computer 161. These devices have known communication interfaces 152 appropriate for the communication mode

B3

120. For example, the interface 152 for the Internet might be a modem or network interface card and the interface 152 for a radio would be a tuner/demodulator circuit.

The announcements 115 are processed by the segment announcement receivers to cause a function 170 to occur. Typically, the function 170 is performed by a particular known control device 180 and the function controls some aspect of the segment announcement receiver. For example, if the descriptive information indicates that the content stream is a commercial, a function 170 would be performed to adjust the sound control (stop record) 180 of the television (video recorder) to mute (stop) 170 at the beginning of the commercial and to restore the sound (resume recording) 170 at the end of the commercial. Other examples of functions 170 using known controls 180 are: a message display, a mute, a stop record, a play, a start record, a screen blanking, and an alarm.

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cont'd.*

In some preferred embodiments, the segment announcement receivers 150 have data structures 400 and processes 500 that are used to automatically control the function of the segment announcement receivers based on the one or more of the content descriptions of one or more of the content streams. See the description below.

Please replace page 12, lines 5-7 with the following:

B4
Figure 5 is a flow chart of a process 500 operating within the segment announcement receiver that activates/deactivates the control output(s) 180 when certain packet information in the network message (announcement 115) is received.